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Message Text

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13
ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-10

INT-01 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-03 SP-02 SS-14 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 DRC-01 /077 W
---------- 075942
R 101645Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8322
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG VE CS
SUBJECT: REFINERY AND PIPELINE PROJECTS

REF: CARACAS 9869

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED PROPOSED REFINERY PRO-
JECT WITH COORDINATOR GENERAL MINISTRY PRESIDENCY
FERNANDO NARANJO AND WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
GOVERNMENT PLANNING ORGANIZATION OTTO KICUTT.
INFORMATION FROM THIS END GENERAL ACCORDS WITH
THAT REPORTED BY EMBASSY CARACAS IN REFTEL, WITH
EXCEPTION OF INFORMATION ON PROPOSED DESTINATION
OF PRODUCTS.

2. HIGH COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS NOW ADMIT THAT THE
THE CHANCE OF A NEW COSTA RICAN REFINERY BECOMING
A MAJOR SOURCE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR
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CENTRAL AMERICA IS JUST ABOUT NIL. AS EMBASSY
CARACAS AND DEPARTMENT AREA AWARE, EACH COUNTRY IN

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CENTRAL AMERICA HAS ITS OWN REFINERY AND WILL WISH TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE ITS OWN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. THUS, PROPOSED REFINERY ON PACIFIC COAST OF COSTA RICA WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO EXPORT ITS PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO PACIFIC MARKETS, NOTABLY U.S. WEST COAST. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHY THIS CONCEPT SHOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO VENEZUELA SINCE PRODUCTS OF SUCH A REFINERY WOULD HAVE TO COMPETE DIRECTLY WITH OIL SHIPMENTS FROM ALASKA. WITH MORE THAN ADEQUATE MARKETS AVAILABLE IN EAST COAST, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY VENEZUELA WOULD ATTEMPT TO MOVE ITS OIL TO MORE DISTANT WEST COAST MARKETS.

3. ACCORDING TO NARANJO AND KICUTT COSTA RICA ALSO ATTACHES HIGH PRIORITY TO CREATING A PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX IN ASSOCIATION WITH PROPOSED REFINERY. COSTA RICA WOULD HOPE TO HAVE PARTICIPATION OF AN AMERICAN CHEMICAL COMPANY AND PERHAPS ALSO VENEZUELA IN PETRO-CHEMICAL PROJECT.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AND REPORT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THESE PROJECTS.
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